(c) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are also a component of District Mental Health Programme for creating social awareness.

(d) and (e) Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

Use of bio-weapons by terrorists

1377. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any effort to identify the kind of bio-weapons that might be used by terrorists and the diseases caused thereof;

(b) if so, the steps taken to create public awareness and educate the public to guard against such bio and chemical warfare threats; and

(c) whether the stock of antibiotics to face such a situation in the country is sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has taken following actions in the context of the present international scenario:

(i) A detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to Health Secretary and Director of Health Services of all States/UTs, and Central Govt. hospitals advising them to take following precautionary steps:

Earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency

Stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible

Setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. They should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(ii) Two expert group meetings were held (1st & 17th October) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review the management (diagnosis, treatment, IEC activities etc.) of recently emerging diseases of public

health importance like Dengue, Anthrax etc. Eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country, senior officials of Ministry of Health & F.W., and chiefs of different Government and private hospitals in Delhi participated in the meeting and deliberated on various apsects of the bio-terrorism in the backdrop of the current global situation.

(iii) Two expert group meetings (18th and 21st October, 2001) were held to finalise guidelines to be issued in CD Alert.

(iv) National Institute of Communicable Diseases, 22, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054, an Institute under Directorate General of Health Services has been designated as the nodal agency for carrying out the tests of suspected Anthrax samples. A round the clock control room is functioning (Telephone Nos. 3912901 (Between 10.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M.) & 3971875 (Between 6.00 P.M to 10.00 A.M) to receive and test the suspected samples. Till the evening of 27th November, 2001, 322 suspected envelopes were received in the NICD for testing. 303 samples have already been tested, none was found positive.

(v) CD Alert, a monthly Newsletter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases titled "Bioterrorism-Public Health system to Remain Alert" exclusively on Anthrax has been widely circulated. It has also been put in the Website of MOHFW (http://mohfw.nic.in) for information of general public.

(vi) Do's & Don't has already been published in the leading National Dailies regarding Anthrax.

(vii) A meeting-cum workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism was convened by the Department of Health on 29th October, 2001 in New Delhi wherein Health Secretary, Home Secretary and Director of Health Services from various States/UTs., eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organisations in the country and heads of different hospitals in Govt. and private sector in Delhi participated and deliberated on various aspects. Drugs for Anthrax are mainly antibiotics like Penicillin, Ciprofloxacine and Doxycycline. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(viii) Continuing Medical Education activities are being conducted in the Central Govt. hospitals in Delhi to sensitise the medical and paramedical personnel on biological terrorism.

(ix) The situation is being monitored.

Nutritional Anaemia in A.P.

1378. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Nutritional Anaemia due to iron deficiency under Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the results achieved during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the National Family Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99, 72.3% of Children under age 3 and 49.80% ever married Women age 15—49 years in the State of Andhra Pradesh suffer from Anaemia.

Surveys conducted in the State of Andhra Pradesh by Iodine Deficiency Disorder Team and other Health Institutions have shown that out of the ten districts surveyed, 9 districts were endemic having Iodine Deficiency Disorders prevalence more than 10%.

Year-wise details of women and children suffering from anaemia or those of prevalence of Iodine deficiency disorders are not available.

Development of herbal medicines

1379. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not concentrating on herbal medicines and formulations which enhance the immunity of the body and help the patients to fight various diseases successfully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to grant more funds for the development of herbal medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P.